

Bangalore Mirror

ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 28 | Min 20 | Humidity 73%

Scattered Thunderstorms

Sensex 65,280

Nifty 19,331

Gold 58,792

Silver 71,333

Dollar 82.62

Euro 90.63

GBP 106.07

BM takes a look at stretch of Victoria Layout footpath and fails to find it amid waste dumped from collection centre, electric poles, private construction

WE NEED TO PUT OUR FOOT DOWN

Taxpayers' money used to construct footpaths, which then the taxpayer can't use

I Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

If the condition of footpaths at Victoria Layout is any indication, it seems the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is least bothered about the condition of the footpaths that were constructed after spending a huge amount of tax-payers' money.

A walk on Palmgrove Road is enough to analyse the BBMP's apathy towards the condition of footpaths on both sides of the road. One can see a dry waste collection centre occupying most of the footpath on one side, which compels pedestrians to walk on the road. The centre is constructed by none other than the BBMP and it is the duty and responsibility of the solid waste management officials to restrain people working at the dry waste collection centre not to dump dry waste on the footpath.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13 >>



VICTORIA ROAD

TIGHTROPE WALK



PALMGROVE ROAD

The BBMP authorities, especially solid waste management department officials, have to take measures to prevent dumping of dry waste on the footpath

— Joseph M, resident of the area

BULLY AUTO STATION

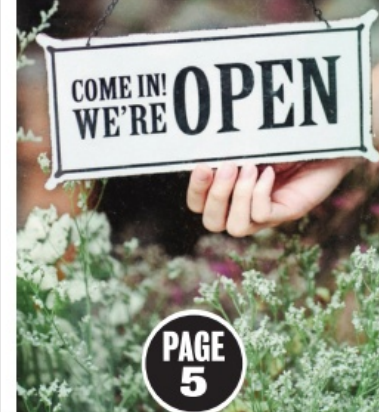
City Rly station turning hub of auto drivers ganging up against passengers



PAGE 3

UP ALL NIGHT

Hoteliers knock govt's door to allow them to stay open till later in the night



PAGE 5

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3 THINGS TO DO



01 Musical episode

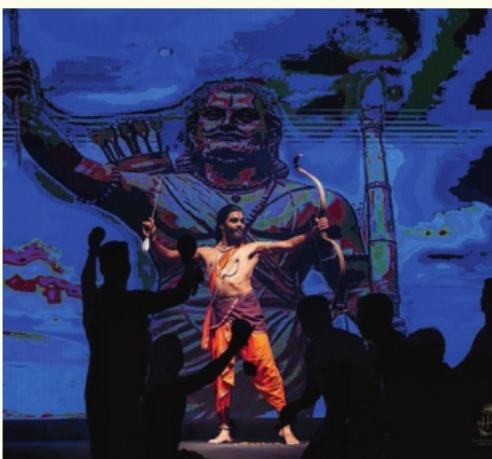
Here's a chance to catch up with another interesting episode of Stalwarts of Music with Aditya Veera ft Gino Vannelli. Vannelli is a Canadian-Italian singer, songwriter, and composer known for his soulful voice, intricate musical arrangements, and genre-bending style.
Where: Instagram Live from @adix70
When: Today; 6 pm



02 Creative collection

The Grand Rajasthani Exhibition is all set to feature some of the collections of cotton and silk handlooms from Karnataka tie and dye dress material, Odisha sarees, and West Bengal cotton sarees. The variety of handlooms includes jewellery (silver, kundan, and meenakari), textiles, handmade paper, precious and semi-precious stones (gemstones), paintings, and more.
Where: White House, No. 4B, 14th Main Road, next to BDA Complex, Sector 6, HSR Layout
When: until July 13

03 Drama show



Don't miss the chance to attend a mega dance drama presenting the contribution of the great freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju. 40 dancers present this narrative with a blend of tribal, folk, Kuchipudi, and modern dance styles. This dance drama commemorates the freedom fighter's 125th birth anniversary and is a part of the Nritya Rangoli festival.
Where: Chowdiah Memorial Hall
When: Today; 6 pm onwards



Giving a clean look

BBMP workers trimming the plants in medians in Bengaluru

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

What's the fix for recycling?

B'luru environmentalists not keen on Gujarat model of incentivising citizens to recycle plastic; emphasise it is better to create awareness on segregation instead

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru-based environmentalists are split over the idea of incentivising citizens to recycle plastic. As the measure is being implemented in Gujarat to roll in more plastic waste to recyclers, they say that while the measure to weed out indiscriminate dumping of plastic waste is appreciable, the expense should not come out of taxpayers' money.

In a recent announcement, the Gujarat municipality said that citizens will be paid for depositing plastic based on their weight. For every kg of plastic deposited, citizens can earn Rs 10 and Rs 23 for every kilogramme of plastic bottles. The plastic collected through the plastic collection centres is sent to a recycling factory. Additionally, women are also collecting plastic waste door-to-door and making a living out of selling upcycled products made from plastic waste.

"Such measures can be helpful in the city, considering people are not even segregating waste in the city. Any measure to incentivise citizens will be helpful. However, there should be a slab of plastic deposited to avoid encouraging the use of plastic. There is a need for greater awareness about three-way segregation in the city," said Raj, a city-based plogger.

Environmentalist V Ram Prasad told Bangalore Mirror that expenses should not come out of



Gujarat municipality said that citizens will be paid for depositing plastic

the taxpayer's pocket.

"There should be measures to incentivise citizens to deposit plastic in the city. Already, consumers are paying for EPR while purchasing products. The spending should happen through the EPR fund and not burden the government or public money. Once the companies start spend-

“There should be measures to incentivise citizens to deposit plastic in the city. Already, consumers are paying for EPR while purchasing products

—V Ram Prasad

BBMP and KSPCB,” he said.

Furthermore, experts feel that, apart from encouraging its use, plastic must not be incinerated in the name of recycling.

"Measures like this encourage the use of plastic and negatively impact consumer behaviour towards plastic. Most of the single-use plastic comes from

Gujarat. In the city, most of the low-value plastic, which comprises 80 per cent of it, is going to a landfill or incinerator. If the government is serious about the plastic problem, they need to stop producing goods that can be recycled or composted. As per the SWM 2016 guidelines, EPR ensures

that companies are responsible for handling the plastic problems generated by them. However, the law was amended to state that incineration is equivalent to recycling," said Malini Parmar, an environmentalist.





PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

ATTACK OF THE AUTO GANG

City Railway station seems to be hub for auto drivers to gang up against passengers and crowd them out

Man booked for entering Assembly posing as MLA



A man, who impersonated an MLA and sat in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly during the presentation of the budget, was booked, police said on Saturday.

Taking serious note of the incident, state Home Minister G Parameshwara had sought a report from the police about the security breach.

The accused was identified as CD Thipperudrappa alias Kariyappa, a resident of Doddapete in Molakalmuru taluk in Chitradurga district.

During preliminary investigation, it was found that the man is mentally unstable and claims himself to be an advocate.

Kariyappa entered Vidhana Soudha (state Assembly) on Friday through the east gate. He went along with the MLAs and when marshals stopped him, he claimed himself to be an MLA and asked them, "don't you recognise me".

The security staff presumed him to be a first time MLA and let him in. The accused had entered the hall at about 12 noon and sat on the seat of JD(S) MLA Karemha G Nayak. After noticing the strange person, JD (S) MLA Sharanagouda Kandakur brought the matter to the notice of the speaker.

By the time authorities could act, he had managed to disappear from the seat. However, the police managed to nab him on the premises of Vidhana Soudha.

The accused had sat on the MLA's seat and attended the session for 15 minutes. The preliminary inquiry has revealed that he had taken a visitor's pass and visited Vidhana Soudha on July 3. The accused was booked for trespassing and impersonation.

No suspicious thing was recovered from his possession, the police said.

—IANS

Ahna Prakash
c-ahna.prakash
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents claim that auto rickshaws are being parked outside Bengaluru City Railway Station and other areas all day long, and they deny passengers a trip, charge extra money, and hinder others, yet traffic cops never book them or remove them.

"Not only do they refuse to go, they gang up and make sure no auto driver near the station offers them logical pricing. There have been instances when they literally abuse the passengers; one time an auto driver asked a woman to pay extra

for autos. There is relief for women at least now that bus travel is free," said Naman.

Some auto drivers who have seen this as an opportunity will go by meters, but it won't be for a distant trip or even they will get bashed by these local auto drivers, he added.

There are helpline numbers that Bengaluru traffic police have in place to report any surcharge or refusal to go when asked, but I haven't seen anyone taking any action yet; people don't know about it

Citizens added that they have never seen the police take action against them. "There are apparently helpline numbers that Bengaluru traffic police have in place to report any surcharge or refusal to go when asked, but I haven't seen anyone taking any action yet; people don't even know about it anyway," he opined.

As of June 2023, 6,022 cases have been booked against auto rickshaws in the city, but they only constitute 0.14% of the total offences booked in Bengaluru, shows the traffic police data.

According to the data, 160 cases have been booked so far in 2023 for demanding excess fare.

Another resident, S Murthy, said, "I've seen them parked in front of the railway station, but I don't know

if they refuse. But they do obstruct in many ways.

They slow down or park near bus stops, and this makes it difficult for bus users to board the bus easily. Sometimes buses stop ahead because there are autos near the designated stop; this compels us to run and catch the bus. This is not limited to one area or bus; it is a behaviour seen among many auto rickshaw drivers."

When a few residents shared their concerns on Twitter on June 5 regarding auto parking near railway stations, Bengaluru traffic police tweeted, "Please call our helpline number 080-22868550 / 22868444 to raise the violation against the auto-rickshaw driver for refusal of hire and demanding excess fare."

RTI reveal: Role of police in case of missing records

I Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A police station is generally expected to maintain information about the police personnel working there and the official vehicles used by them. They are responsible for keeping records of the vehicles at their disposal, including private vehicles used to transport accused individuals to the police station or to magistrate courts and hospitals for treatment.

However, Ramamurthy Nagar Police Station seems to lack complete information in this regard. While they have service numbers of a few

policemen, the sub-inspector is unaware of the names of the police constables assigned to transport an accused person to a hospital. Additionally, the sub-inspector, who also serves as the information officer, does not possess data about the vehicle used to present the accused before the magistrate.

The delay in providing the requested information through an RTI application is quite astonishing. It took the sub-inspector approximately 20 months to furnish the details to the applicant.

Jagan Kumar, the applicant, submitted an RTI application on November 14, 2021 seeking information about the names and employ-



ment numbers of the policemen and police inspectors who transported an accused person to KR Puram Government Hospital, Magistrate House, Lady Curzon and Bowring Hospital, and NIMHANS. Kumar also

requested information on the vehicles used for this purpose, including the registration number.

In response to the RTI application, the sub-inspector stated that police constable Ramesh Basappa Valimiki and another police constable took the accused person to the government hospital for a medical examination and subsequently presented him before the magistrate. However, the sub-inspector mentioned that there is no information available in the police station documents regarding the name of the police constable.

The sub-inspector explained that the accused complained of a headache, and as per the magistrate's instruction, police constables Ajappa

H and Sanjeev Poojari took the accused person to Lady Curzon and Bowring Hospital and NIMHANS Hospital at 2:30 (it is unclear whether it is am or pm). The reply to the RTI application states that the accused was presented before the magistrate at 11 am, but there is no data available regarding the vehicle used to transport the accused to the magistrate's court.

There are doubts regarding whether the Ramamurthy Nagar police used a private vehicle to present the accused before the magistrate. If that is the case, it remains unclear whether the police made any payment to the owner of the private vehicle for its usage.

Supply finally meets demand!

BMTC to add 2,000 buses to its fleet based on growing demand

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Bengaluru is set to see 2,000 new Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) buses on its roads in the near future, according to Transport Minister N Ramalinga Reddy. He stated, "Overall, the state government is planning to induct a total of 4,000 new buses, deploying them based on demand. We have decided to add 2,000 buses in response to the city's population of 1.6 crore and the recognised need for increased bus services. These buses are likely to be operational within two or three months. The new fleet includes 900 electric buses as well."

Reddy acknowledged the need for increased bus services and emphasised the importance of expanding the fleet across all transport corporations. He explained, "Despite population growth, the number of buses has remained stagnant since 2013. To address this issue, we plan to adopt electric buses for KSRTC, Kalyana Karnataka, and North West transport corporations. Given the high cost of purchasing new electric buses, we intend to allow private companies to deploy and maintain these buses. The private company would provide the driver and ensure maintenance, while the transport corporations would contribute conductors and pay for the electric buses per kilometre." This approach aims to save on expenditure for buying new buses while reducing pollution.

There have been claims from various quarters that the state government was planning to privatise



A BMTC bus; there have been claims that the state government was planning to privatise the buses

Despite population growth, the number of buses has remained stagnant since 2013. To address this issue, we plan to adopt electric buses

— N Ramalinga Reddy,
Transport Minister

the buses. However, Reddy said, "This does not indicate full privatisation. We would pay the private companies per kilometre, ensuring that the buses remain under our control. Electric buses are more expensive,

with a price tag of Rs 1.5 crore compared to Rs 40 lakh for a diesel bus. The government plans to recruit 13,000 staff members, including drivers, conductors, and mechanical staff, to support the expanded fleet." He also mentioned that in the future, electric buses may be operational on long routes as well. "The current range of operational electric buses is 320 kilometres, but we anticipate deploying electric buses with a range of 450 kilometres, enabling them to operate on longer routes. To accommodate this shift, we need to establish charging stations along the infrastructure. The cost of electricity required for charging the bus is far less than the cost of diesel," he said. Meanwhile, under the Shakti

scheme, a total of 14,93,67,576 women commuters have travelled using the free bus scheme. Reddy provided the breakdown, saying, "This includes 4,47,69,191 in KSRTC; 4,81,77,438 in BMTC; 3,59,98,228 in NWKRTC, and 2,04,28,719 in KKRTC. Now, the government owes Rs 353,47,16,980 to the transport corporations as reimbursement for free tickets," Reddy said.

Now, the big question - when will the Shakti card be introduced? Reddy informed, "In the next cabinet meeting we will discuss implementation of Shakti smart cards. These cards would serve as a common ticketing system across all four transport corporations, ensuring seamless travel without discrimination."

If we ignore it, will it go away? NO

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Heaps of garbage littered on Kasavanahalli Main Road near Bellandur have become a common sight for commuters. Those who regularly use the stretch say they have had to endure the foul smell of rotting garbage for months. Despite numerous complaints in the past, civic authorities have failed to take any action.

"While entering Kasavanahalli Main Road from Sarjapur, the left side - nearly 200 meters - of the stretch is brimming with filth. We haven't seen the garbage being cleared from the spot for months now. The stench from the unattended pile is unbearable for passers-by," said a regular commuter.

Commuters say the issue has worsened with recent rain spells. The



There are heaps of garbage littered on Kasavanahalli Main Road near Bellandur; commuters complain of an unbearable stench in the area

garbage heap has started emitting a putrid odour, sparking health concerns. Locals claim to be clueless about who is responsible for littering the area.

"We are not sure if the garbage is being dumped by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) workers or the residential complexes in the



surrounding area. It is a busy stretch with heavy traffic. This road is the only connection between Sarjapur and the Haralur area. The problem has persisted for months. After recent rain spells, a foul smell emanates from the trash. We are already witnessing dengue cases in residential complexes in the area. The stinking

piles have created a health scare," said Guruprasad Rao, a resident of the area.

Locals also report that the garbage is attracting stray animals, including dogs, pigs, cattle, and birds, and is being scattered in the surrounding areas.

The stretch is additionally riddled with deep potholes, causing inconvenience to motorists. Commuters allege that despite numerous issues, their repeated complaints to the civic authorities have been ignored.

"The garbage heap poses a health risk to people living in the area. Passers-by can be seen rushing through the stretch with their noses and mouths covered due to the unbearable smell. Moreover, some of the potholes are very deep, raising safety concerns. The stretch doesn't resemble the IT capital of the country. We have informed the concerned BBMP officials, but no action has been taken so far," said another resident.

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Pedestrian peril

Banaswadi



Immediate repair of this footpath on Banaswadi Main Road is crucial to prevent potential dangers to pedestrians.

Trash trouble

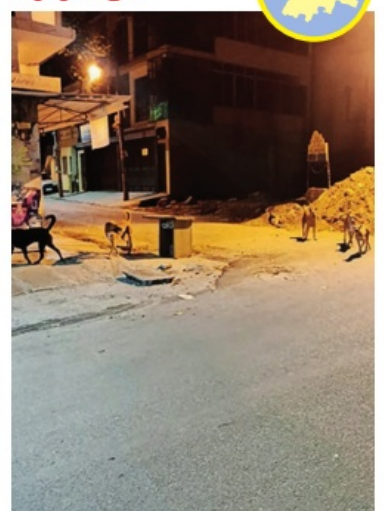
JP Nagar



Urgent action is required to clear the garbage at JP Nagar 1st Phase.

Stray issue

Vijaynagar



There is a persistent issue concerning street dogs in Hampi Nagar, Vijaynagar.

134 MLAs, 48 MLCs fail to declare assets, liabilities

I Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Lawmakers in Karnataka have developed a concerning pattern of disregarding the law when it comes to declaring their assets and liabilities. The negligence towards the Karnataka Lokayukta by elected representatives is perplexing. This year, the number of MLAs failing to comply with the requirement has risen by 20, reaching a total of 134, compared to 114 from the previous year.

Under Section 22 of the Karnataka Lokayukta Act, public servants, excluding government officials, are

obligated to submit a statement of their assets and liabilities, as well as those of their family members, to the Lokayukta. This must be done within three months of the Act's commencement and before June 30 each year.

HM Venkatesh, an activist, said, "I have written a letter to the Lokayukta, requesting action against the defaulters. I requested prosecution of those who failed to declare their assets and liabilities under Section 14 of the Karnataka Lokayukta Act 1984 but nothing happened," he said.

In Bengaluru City, SR Vishwanath, BA Basavaraj, Muniratna, Dr CN Ashwath Narayan, Suresh BS, KJ George, S Raghu, M Krishnappa,

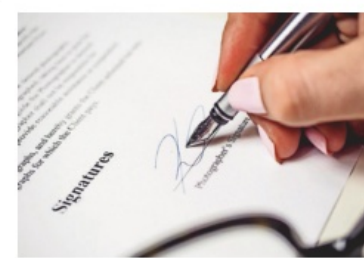
LA Ravi Subramanya, R Ashok, and M Krishnappa have filed their assets and liabilities by the end of June 30.

Krishne Byre Gowda, ST So-masekhar, Gopalaiah, AC Srinivas, NA Haris, Dinesh Gundu Rao, Zameer Ahmed Khan, Uday B Garudachar, Ramalinga Reddy, CK Ramamurthy, and M Satish Reddy have failed to do the same.

This year, the number of MLAs failing to comply with the requirement has risen by 20, reaching a total of 134

Among the 75 MLCs, 48, including BK Hariprasad, Naseer Ahmed, AH Vishwanath, SL Bhoje Gowda, Bharathi Shetty, BM Farooq, and Govinda Raju are defaulters.

Former Karnataka Lokayukta Justice N Santosh Hegde has strongly criticised elected representatives for neglecting the norm. He said, "It is the responsibility of the elected representatives to declare their assets and liabilities. When I was Lokayukta, I initiated criminal action against those who failed to do so. I am unaware of the progress of the cases since retiring. Elected representatives should aim to be the role models for others. They should be punished for not declaring their as-



sets and liabilities."

Ramesh Babu, Congress spokesperson, said, "I want the Karnataka Lokayukta to become a role model for elected representatives by declaring his assets and liabilities. If not, what moral right does the Lokayukta have to punish elected representatives?"

Can we stay open 24/7?



Eateries want to operate at all hours; some citizens oppose idea

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The demand for eateries to stay open 24/7 has resurfaced. Hoteliers recently met Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and urged him to grant permission for the same. Following the meeting, PC Rao, President of the Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels' Association, expressed optimism, saying, "The outcome of the meeting was positive, and we hope the government will take all necessary steps soon so that people can enjoy food at any time of the night."

He said that hoteliers requested the government to streamline various licenses, such as trade, FSSAI, and shops and establishments licenses, into a one-time process (perpetual). Allowing eateries to operate throughout the night will benefit those who work or travel

during late hours. This will greatly assist police personnel, medical staff, drivers, and individuals in essential services. "Many commuters who rely on buses, trains, or flights often travel during the late hours and find themselves without any food options. Restaurants and eateries staying open during those hours will definitely help them. We have also demanded industrial status," he further said.

Previously, the BJP government had decided against allowing eateries to operate 24/7. Former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had said that his government would make a decision only if eateries registered their establishments with the Department of Tourism.

A hotelier explained that with many people staying awake late at night, there is a demand for food to be served during those hours. However, the staff currently have to shut shop by 10:30 pm. "Due to the early closure, we also can't pre-

“There are hardly any restaurants open. If I'm unable to have dinner during work, I won't have anything to eat for the night” — Techie

pare extra food, and as a result, we run out of food items even before closing time, which disappoints customers. I believe that as Bengaluru is a metropolis, the government should allow us to operate past midnight, if not throughout the night, so that we can provide service to customers," they said. On the other hand, customers have also expressed their desire for extended operating hours. A late-shift techie shared, "My job ends around 11 pm, and I have to travel home. There are hardly any restaurants open, and many nights, if I'm unable to have dinner during work hours, I won't have anything to eat for the night. Many tech companies have already resumed operations, and employees working late shifts return home around midnight. It will be difficult for many to have food at home late at night due to various reasons. So, the demand for late-night eateries is always there."

However, several resident welfare associations are opposing the idea, citing concerns about noise and disturbances. A citizen said, "If a restaurant is open until 11 pm, we cannot sleep until at least 11:30 pm until the employees leave. People also park vehicles in front of our homes, which is definitely a nuisance."

BENGALURU

5 held for burning, killing man

In an intriguing investigation, police successfully traced the accused in a murder case within five days after discovering a burnt body near Channarayana Palya in Chikkabidarakallu, Peenya. On June 2, around 7 am, a passer-by informed Peenya police about a body in an empty space next to a wine shop in Channarayana Palya. Upon arrival, police discovered the partially burned body.

A murder case was registered. Senior officers who inspected the scene formed a special team, which issued an announcement and successfully identified the deceased.

"We compared the features with a missing person complaint. The wife was able to identify the body through the preserved footwear and a gold chain," explained Shiva Prakash Devaraju, the Deputy Commissioner of Police.

Subsequently, the police identified three suspects and conducted interrogations.

Further interrogation revealed that they had a dispute with the deceased regarding a work contract. **BMB**

Man caught stealing from own house

Siddapur police have arrested a man who stole gold, silver, cash, and a watch from his own house to use for online betting.



The accused, who happens to be the complainant's son, took advantage of the empty house and stole the items for his online betting activities. Following his arrest, police successfully recovered 783 grams of gold bars, 288.01 grams of silver bars, and a Longines men's watch. Additionally, Rs 4,60,000 in cash was seized by the police. **BMB**

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No light at end of this tunnel

Experts pan proposed tunnel project, say it contradicts objective of promoting efficient mobility and poses environmental questions too

| Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The state government's ambitious plan to construct an underground tunnel system connecting Peenya, Hebbal, KR Puram, and Hosur has faced substantial backlash from both mobility experts and environmental researchers. Experts say that this proposed project not only contradicts the core objective of promoting efficient mobility but also poses significant environmental risks.

"The tunnel road idea is worse than the elevated corridor idea proposed earlier. The project is not in line with the fundamental goal of mobility, which is to move a maximum number of people and goods from one point to another in a fast and efficient way. Moreover, this should be done with the least impact on the environment and local ecology. The project falls short of these criteria," said Prof Ashish Verma, convenor of the IISC Sustainable Transportation (IST) Lab.

City-based mobility experts say the tunnel project should be considered only after Bengaluru has exhausted all mass transit options. A comparison of the city's major existing and proposed commute modes makes a strong

While creating the tunnel may not impact city's green cover, threat to groundwater looms large; experts call for impact assessment

case for not going the tunnel way. The 100-kilometre metro track project by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation is coming up at a total cost of Rs 50,000 crore, whereas the 140-kilometre stretch of the suburban rail has been proposed at a total cost of Rs 16,000 crore.

"A cost analysis of ongoing public transport developments shows that while the tunnel project will be built at the cost of Rs 1700 crore per kilometre, the metro rail works out at Rs 500 crore per kilometre and suburban rail project at Rs 125 crores per kilometre. We have a long way to go when it comes to the public transport system. Countries like Singapore and Japan went for tunnels after they had saturated all mass transit options," said Rajkumar Dugar, founder of Citizen for Citizen.

Experts also highlight that while metro and suburban rail projects have immediate and medium-term benefits, the tunnel project will take a long time to be completed.

"A good case in point is the tunnel work between Gottigere to Nagawara. While the project of a much smaller scale compared with the proposed tunnel project, was started in 2017-18, it is far from completion and the work is still going on," added Dugar.

Cutting through the rocky and thus challenging terrain of Bengaluru can be a complex affair too. BMRCL, in the past, has publicly admitted the chal-

lenges of cutting through hard rocks, leading to long delays in the project. A study was also conducted, which confirmed that the rocky and difficult terrain of the city poses various challenges for underground tunnelling work.

Experts also highlight the Karnataka assembly's decision to adopt the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) bill last year for regulation, operation, monitoring, maintenance, and supervision of urban mobility. They say as per the law, the project must be handed over to BMLTA to evaluate its feasibility.

Environmental Impact Assessment: a must

Dr TV Ramachandra, Center for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), raised concerns about the environmental impact of such projects. While creating the tunnel will not impact the city's green cover, a threat to groundwater looms large.

"The project can impact the movement of groundwater in underlying layers. Bengaluru East is suffering due to metro tunnelling work a few years ago. It is not wise to go ahead with such projects without conducting a detailed environmental impact assessment. We have not even mapped the city's aquifer. Any interruption in underground water movement will leave an adverse impact on a city like Bengaluru," said Dr Ramachandra.

The state government has mooted the tunnel road project to rid Bengaluru of its traffic woes. The idea of the tunnel to connect Bengaluru's south, north, east, and west zones has been proposed as a long-lasting solution keeping in mind the city's anticipated growth in years to come.

Waste not: Team cracks 'board' exam with flying colours

| Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

After successful use of multi-layer plastics (MLP) flooding landfills for sustainability in resource recovery, Hasiru Dala is taking its concept further. The group had set up a Material Recovery facility at Machohalli. Their first project focussed on transforming the MLP into boards used to make benches, which were given to schools. Now using the same technique, the boards will be used to construct shelters for waste pickers, benches in parks and an exhibition centre to spread awareness about recycling and composting.

BM had reported on how the MLP is being transformed into boards. MLP that is hard to recycle ends up going to the landfills, is collected from the dry waste collection centre (DWCC) and taken to the Machohalli unit. Using technology, the material is cut into pieces and compressed at a high level temperature that melts and takes the shape of a board. This becomes like an alternative to plywood and is water-proof. When the project was started, 110 benches were made and it was given to different schools. As of July, the project is completed. "We have made 110 benches, 27 tables for four schools across Bengaluru. The benches fit three children across comfortably. We have also been experimenting with newer designs and colour techniques for developing a new catalogue of posts/boards," said Akbar Allahbakhsh, Director for Programme Design, Hasiru Dala.

The schools that have received benches are Karnataka Public School, Sarakki, RKS, Jolly Mohalla, GLPS School, Siddharth Nagar and GULPS school in MS Palya.

This apart, an exhibition centre made with MLP boards was set up at Swachha Grahika Kalika Kendra (SGKK), a learning centre for kitchen and garden waste composting. "We also constructed a worker's shelter where the boards have been used in the roofing and furniture tables and benches for the staff were also made," added Akbar.

The team from Hasiru Dala constructed a worker's shelter at the Adugodu police campus, where an on-site waste management system for dry waste, wet waste and biogas is present. "Many of the workers do not have a place to rest or even eat in a closed space peacefully. We decided to get the shelter constructed for the workers. The aim is to create such small centres in every DWCC for the workers in the coming days," he added.

With the BBMP's permission, the team has even created park benches from the MLP boards to be installed in public parks. The installation was put on hold during the election campaign and voting period and now they are awaiting BBMP's approval to install them. The project's progress has benefited schools, waste pickers, workers, and public spaces, while raising awareness about recycling and composting practices.

BangaloreMirror

Tunnel plans pan out amid criticism

10 Minister Sushil Kumar Shetty announced the plan to construct 65 km of tunnel road in the city. The plan is to connect Peenya, Hebbal, KR Puram, and Hosur. The project is expected to be completed by 2025. The project is expected to be completed by 2025. The project is expected to be completed by 2025.

BM had reported on June 28 that state govt proposes to go ahead with its tunnel project plan

Is K'taka breathing easy?

Karnataka registers drop in air pollution in both rural and urban areas; gets featured in list of states that brought their PM2.5 levels below CPCB safe limits

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Karnataka, over the past five years, has witnessed a drop of over 18% in air pollution in rural areas and over 16% in urban areas. A nationwide analysis of annual fine particulate matter levels conducted on satellite data available at IIT Delhi shows that Karnataka has registered a dip in PM2.5 levels, which is lower than the national average.

Rural regions across India registered a decline in PM2.5 levels by 19.1% and urban areas recorded a drop of 18.7% in the level of fine particulate matter.

In the rural areas of Karnataka, the average annual PM2.5 level in 2017 was found to be 37 ug/m3, 36.2 ug/m3 in 2018, 32.9 ug/m3 in 2019, 29.1 ug/m3 in 2020, 29.4 ug/m3 in 2021, and 30.3 ug/m3 in 2022.

Similarly, in urban areas, the average annual PM2.5 level in 2017 was found to be 36.4 ug/m3, 35.8 ug/m3 in 2018, 32.6 ug/m3 in 2019, 28.9 ug/m3 in 2020, 29.2 ug/m3 in 2021, and 30.5 ug/m3 in 2022.

Karnataka also featured in the list of states that brought their urban and rural PM2.5 levels below the CPCB safe limits of 40 ug/m3.

However, air quality experts highlight that since the PM2.5 levels are showing an upward trend from 2021, the slight drop in the



K'taka witnessed a drop of 16% in air pollution in urban areas

levels can be attributed to covid-19-induced lockdowns and a drop in anthropogenic activities that led to lower emissions of fine particulate matter.

"Pandemic has a big role to play in bringing down the levels of PM2.5. It led to a decrease in baseline emission, and that shows a quantum decrease in the concentration of fine particulate matter. However, the analysis itself shows that the levels are going up, starting in 2021. This is because we are returning to the pre-pandemic stage, and thus anthropogenic activities are going up. Had the concentration of PM2.5 been going down even after 2021, it would have been safe to dedicate it to mitigation measures," said Prof Gufran Beig, chair professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS).

Researchers also highlight that in statistical analysis, a drop of 2-3 ug/m3 falls within the error bar and should not be considered significant.

India scenario

The analysis found that the nationwide percentage reduction of rural concentration is about 19.1%, and urban concentration is reduced by 18.7%.

With a reduction of 37.8% and 38.1% in urban and rural PM 2.5 levels, respectively, Uttar Pradesh has recorded the best progress from 2017 to 2022. Maharashtra was the worst performing state, with only a dip of 7.7% in its urban PM 2.5 levels, while with a decrease of 8.2% in its rural PM 2.5 levels, Gujarat made the least progress. Among all states and union territories, only Chandigarh, with urban PM2.5 levels up by 0.3%, was the only union territory to see an increase.

The analysis also highlighted the value of satellite data in tracking air pollution trends and recommended a denser network of monitoring stations in rural areas.

"Satellite-derived PM2.5 levels provided comprehensive insights

"Pandemic has a big role to play in bringing down the levels of PM2.5. It led to a decrease in baseline emission"

—Prof Gufran Beig, NIAS

into both rural and urban areas, enabling a better understanding of pollution patterns and their sources. However, since rural areas are largely excluded from the air quality monitoring programme, the ground data supplied to validate the satellite-derived data results in a more homogenised outlook. A denser rural monitoring network will help improve the quality of satellite data," said the analysis conducted by Climate Trends, a research-based consulting and capacity-building initiative in Delhi.

Sudeep sends defamation notice

Multilingual film actor Sudeep Sanjeev, popularly known as Kichcha Sudeep, has served a defamation notice of Rs 10 crore on film directors-producers MN Kumar and MN Suresh.

The acclaimed actor who earned national recognition for his movie 'Eega' (Makkhi in Hindi) sent a legal notice through CV Nagesh Associates to Kumar and Suresh.

Sudeep has made four movies 'RangaLC', 'Kaashi from village', 'Mukunda Murari', and 'Manikya' with Kumar.

The notice said on July 3, Kumar held a press meet at the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce, which was aired via social media sites such as Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram and circulated through WhatsApp as well. At the press meet, Kumar alleged that Sudeep had taken certain money as an advance for working in a movie that they would be producing and that they had done 'full settlement' of payment in his favour, according to the notice.

Further, Kumar claimed that they paid advance money to various people 'on the basis of Sudeep's insistence', the notice said.

The film producer said at the press conference that they paid advance money to Sudeep to purchase a residential property in Rajarajeshwari Nagar in Bengaluru, Sudeep's counsel said.

"Though the damage caused to the image and reputation of our client cannot be measured and compensated in terms of currency, our client, however, restricts the same to a notional figure of Rs 10 crore only. You have made yourself pay our client a sum of Rs 10 crore only as damages," the notice said.

While Kumar was not available for comment, Suresh said he, being an executive member and former secretary of the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce, was present during the press conference to support Kumar. "I did not make any allegations. I only wanted the matter to be resolved amicably," Suresh said.

— PTI

Alert: Tomato thief on the loose!

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Tomato masala is one of the favourite street food items in the city. However, Bengalureans have been missing out on their favourite chats for the past few weeks as tomatoes have become expensive. In fact, tomatoes have been removed from the menus of everything from roadside carts to food chains like McDonald's. With tomato prices remaining high, traders are resorting to innovative methods such as installing CCTV and hiring security guards to protect their produce.

The prices of tomatoes have reached a point where they are more expensive than a litre of petrol, not



only in Bengaluru but across India. McDonald's recently made the decision to exclude tomatoes from its burgers and wraps in many parts of the country due to the soaring prices. Normally, burgers would have

a slice of tomato between the bun and patty, and wraps would contain tomatoes. For now, these items will not include tomatoes.

A spokesperson from McDonald's India, North and East, clarified, "Due

to seasonal crop issues arising out of farm fields in a few regions, there are not enough quantities meeting our quality specifications available. To ensure our customers get the best quality we are known for, we are constrained to hold tomatoes for the time being. We reiterate that it is not due to the surge in prices. It is only due to the non-availability of tomatoes meeting our quality specifications."

In Karnataka, some farmers have started installing CCTVs to secure their tomato produce as incidents of tomato theft have increased. One tomato farmer from Belur (Hassan district) expressed her distress as thieves stole her tomatoes on Tuesday night.

Parvathamma said her family had been vigilantly guarding their tomato farm. She explained, "We toiled so much on the farm but got nothing. My husband can't speak. We work here from 7 in the morn-

"We toiled so much on the farm but got nothing. We put in all our labour and money, but everything was looted"

—Parvathamma

ing until 9 at night. We put in all our labour and money, but everything was looted."

In a separate incident, a tomato cultivator named Dharani reported that all the tomatoes from her farm had been stolen. The farmer estimated a loss of around Rs 2.7 lakh, as 90 boxes of tomatoes were stolen. The police have registered a case and are investigating the matter. In another theft case in Telangana, tomatoes weighing 20 kg and other vegetables weighing about 35 kg were stolen from a shop.

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

FRIENDS IN DEEP CONVERSATION

A dog and a cat rest in the midst of greenery

The picture was clicked by BM reader Hamra Yaganagi



If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

Mind your footing here

Residents raise concern over neglected condition of footpaths on St Marks Road

St Marks Road, a beautiful neighbourhood in Bengaluru, has been transformed into a frustrating nightmare for both residents and pedestrians alike. Residents say that the broken sidewalks not only mar the city's beauty but also pose significant safety threats, leading to injuries. Urgent action is required to address this pressing issue and provide a much-needed solution.

"St Marks Road was meant to set an example for future developments in Bengaluru, but unfortunately, the BBMP has neglected its maintenance entirely. Due to heavy usage, the tiles on the sidewalks are currently broken, and despite numerous complaints, no action has been taken to rectify the issue. Previously, BBMP had installed benches for pedestrians and residents to rest on, but these were removed by the police authority to make way for new traffic booths. The resulting debris has not been cleaned up until now," explained Ramesh Ramachandra, a resident of the area.

Furthermore, residents said that the responsibility for beautifying the city lies with the BBMP, and this problem not only tarnishes the city's image but also inconveniences the citizens of Bengaluru.

"The installation of stalls by vendors under the footbridge near Bangalore Club on St Marks Road has caused the area to become excessively crowded, which is problematic for the residents. Moreover, the existing broken sidewalks have rendered walking unsafe, leading to incidents where people are falling while using the footpaths, which are meant to be safe



Due to heavy usage, the tiles on the sidewalks on St Marks Road are broken

zones for pedestrians," said KS Kedarnath, another resident.

Others added that the civic body should ensure that the walkways withstand regular usage.

"All the footpaths on St Marks Road were recently constructed, but unfortunately, they have already sustained damage. To address this issue, it is crucial for the BBMP to carefully plan their work and utilise high-quality materials when creating sidewalks. A comprehensive plan should be established before commencing construction to prevent premature damage. This plan should include a thorough surface inspection, identification of potential risks, and consideration of expected foot traffic. By doing so, BBMP can ensure that the walkways withstand regular usage and environmental factors," suggested Krishan Kedarnath, another resident.

Meanwhile, a BBMP official said, "BBMP will address the issue of broken sidewalks and uncleared debris on St Marks Road. The citizens can rest assured that any necessary repairs will be carried out promptly and without complaints from the residents."

—Snigdha Chatterjee and Esita Rani Mandal

DID YOU KNOW?



HK Venkatram is one of the most popular Indian classical violinists from Bengaluru. He is known for his concerts in India and abroad. He has performed alongside TM Krishna, Dr N Ramani, Trichur V Ramachandran, Mandolin U Srinivas, Semmangudi Srinivasa Iyer, and many others. He runs his institution, Vijaya College of Music in Bengaluru, which was set up by his father in 1953. He was awarded the best violinist at the Annual Conference of the Madras Music Academy and Ganakala Shree by Karnataka Ganakala Parishath.

GET HEARD WITH
MIRROR
9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAP THE CHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

How do you feel about trains to the airport being suspended? Do you think there is a need for cheaper modes of travel to the airport?



Priya Sinha, BM Reader

The decision to suspend trains to the airport is a regressive move. It affects the common man, who heavily relies on affordable public transportation. Cheaper modes of travel should be a priority.



Rajesh Patel, BM Reader

The suspension of trains to the airport is a blow to commuters. We need better connectivity options that are budget-friendly. This decision needs to be reconsidered.



Ananya Venkatesh, BM Reader

The suspension of airport trains is a setback for Bengaluru's infrastructure. Cheaper modes of travel, such as dedicated airport buses, should be implemented to cater to a wider range of passengers.



Ramesh Kumar, BM Reader

Trains are required for frequent travellers like me as they are convenient and cost-effective options compared to Volvo buses. There should be alternatives, like cheaper modes of travel, as regular workers travelling to the airport may not be able to afford to travel via cab or Volvo bus.



Shalini Gupta, BM Reader

As a regular commuter, I'm extremely disappointed with the suspension of trains to the airport. It provided a hassle-free and reliable connection. Affordable alternatives are essential for the convenience of passengers.



Manoj Desai, BM Reader

The suspension of airport trains is a step in the wrong direction. We need more affordable travel options, especially for those who can't afford expensive taxis or airport shuttles.

SPEAK TO US

What are the measures that can be taken to ensure the cleanliness of the bus stops in the city?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

Users and lawyers compare Twitter and Threads

COPYCAT OR COMPETITOR?

In a cease-and-desist letter earlier this week, Twitter threatened legal action against Instagram parent company Meta over the new text-based app Threads, which it called a "copycat."

Threads has drawn tens of millions of users since launching as the latest rival to Elon Musk's social media platform.

Threads creators pushed back on the accusations, and legal experts note that much is still unknown. For now, "it's sort of a big question mark," Jacob Noti-Victor, an associate professor at Yeshiva University's Cardozo Law School who specializes in intellectual property, told The Associated Press.

The people starting to explore Threads, however, are already making their own observations.

"People are calling it a Twitter clone but I think there are some key product differences," said Alexandra Popken, Twitter's former head of trust and safety operations.

One difference, she thinks, will likely be the people who use it. At Threads, "you're essentially taking your audience from Instagram and putting this into a new text-based app, whereas Twitter is a kind of a niche audience for politicians, celebrities and news junkies," she said.

Yet even though Threads makers have said they aren't particularly interested in making it a politics forum, it's likely to attract journalists and politicians, among others, looking for a Twitter alternative. Instagram's CEO, Adam Mosseri, said Threads isn't aiming to replace Twitter.

"The goal is to create a public square for communities on Instagram that never really embraced Twitter and for communities on Twitter (and other platforms) that are interested in a less angry place for conversations, but not all of Twitter," he said.

Politics and hard news will inevitably show up on Threads, he acknowledged, "but we're not going to do anything to encourage those verticals."

In a Wednesday letter addressed to Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg, Alex Spiro, an attorney representing Twitter, accused Meta of unlawfully using Twitter's trade secrets and other intellectual property by hiring former Twitter employees to create a "copycat" app.

In a reply to a tweet about the possibility of legal action against Meta, Musk wrote: "Competition is fine, cheating is not."



Meta spokesperson Andy Stone responded in a Threads post Thursday that "no one on the Threads engineering team is a former Twitter employee."

From Spiro's letter, which was first obtained by news outlet Semafor on Thursday, Noti-Victor said it's hard to tell what the trade secrets referred to might be.

Spiro says ex-Twitter employees "improperly retained" company documents and electronic devices — pointing to ongoing confidentiality obligations. There was no explicit reference, however, to a breach of any binding agreement in the letter, and most noncompete clauses, for example, are prohibited in California.

In addition, despite Threads' similarities to Twitter, "just the idea of creating a social media platform involving text (is) certainly not something that would be a trade

secret," Noti-Victor added.

He is skeptical of intellectual property violations for similar reasons, noting that companies "can't patent something that's obvious" or copyright a general idea for a social media platform. Copyright can protect source code and the text of a website, but Noti-Victor said he doesn't see that reproduced in Threads.

Experts add that companies in Silicon Valley are constantly making products or services inspired by competitors' versions.

"The industry has a storied past of borrowing ideas from each other," said Popken, adding that Threads and other platforms such as Mastodon and Bluesky are "trying to capitalise on what is demand for a suitable, safer alternative to Twitter."

Meta has a track record of starting standalone apps that mirror competitors, although many later shut down.

Beyond trade secret and intellectual property allegations, Spiro also wrote that Meta is prohibited from "engaging in any crawling or scraping of Twitter's followers or following data." He said the letter marked a "formal notice" for Meta to preserve documents relevant for a potential dispute between the companies.

Any letter of this kind should be taken seriously, said Carl Tobias, law professor at the University of

Richmond's School of Law — but he, too, added that much is still unknown. More specific allegations and documents could come forward if litigation is pursued.

Tobias speculated that Twitter's move could be partly about publicity, as well as a strategic response both legally and business-wise. Musk's legal team has made similar moves before, such as a May letter to Microsoft objecting to alleged misuse of Twitter data to train artificial intelligence systems.

Among those elevating the clone-or-not question this week was Twitter co-founder and former CEO Jack Dorsey, who has championed Bluesky, and joked in a tweet: "We wanted flying cars, instead we got 7 Twitter clones."

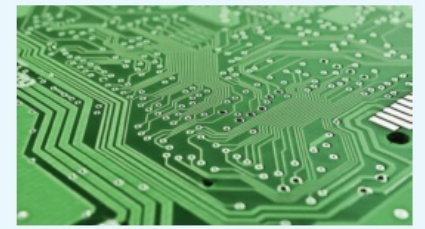
For Popken, who now works at content moderation startup WebPurify, what most stands out about Threads so far is how much fun she's having using it.

"I see brands like Slim Jim trying to be funny. I see influencers who I follow on Instagram and people who I care about in my life," she said. "There's like this period of time where the bad actors haven't found it yet. It's like this non-toxic, happy corner of the internet."

But "make no mistake," she added, those content moderation problems that have plagued other platforms "will certainly strike Threads over time." **AP**

BITS & BYTES

ON CLOUD NINE

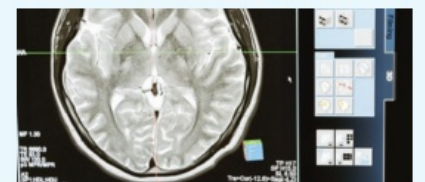


Led by Microsoft, global revenue for the public cloud services market reached \$545.8 billion last year, an increase of 22.9 per cent over 2021, according to a new report.

Top 5 public cloud service providers — Microsoft, Amazon Web Services, Salesforce, Google, and Oracle — captured more than 41 per cent of the worldwide total and growing 27.3 per cent year over year, according to the latest IDC data.

With offerings in all four deployment categories, Microsoft remained in the top position in the overall public cloud services market with 16.8% share. **IAN**

AI IN THE BRAIN



Scientists have designed an artificial intelligence(AI)-based tool that can rapidly decode a brain tumour's DNA to determine its molecular identity during surgery, guiding surgical and treatment decisions.

Knowing a tumour's molecular type can enable neurosurgeons to make decisions such as how much brain tissue to remove and whether to place tumour-killing drugs directly into the brain -- while the patient is still on the operating table.

Under the current approach, it can take a few days and up to a few weeks. Removing too much when the tumour is less aggressive can affect a patient's neurologic and cognitive function. **IAN**

TOOTH OR DARE



In a breakthrough, a team of Japanese scientists has developed a drug that can regenerate lost teeth in adults, an advance that is now moving towards human clinical trials.

Scientists at Kyoto University and the University of Fukui focused on a protein called USAG-1, which, synthesised by a gene, was found to limit the growth of teeth. The antibody targeting USAG-1 could stimulate tooth growth in mice suffering from tooth agenesis, a congenital condition. In a paper, published in the journal Science Advances, they said the drug, can aid people to grow a new set of teeth who lack them due to a congenital condition called Anodontia. **IAN**

“You’re essentially taking your audience from Instagram and putting this into a new text-based app, whereas Twitter is a kind of a niche audience for politicians, celebs and news junkies

MIND, BODY & HEART



All you need to know about...

—5 foods for good mood—

Bananas

Bananas can help make a bad mood better. They're abundant in vitamin B6, which aids in the production of feel-good neurotransmitters such as dopamine and serotonin. Sugar is slowly released into the circulation when combined with fibre, allowing for more steady levels of sugar in the blood and improved mood management.

Eggs

Eggs are packed with protein, and vitamins D and B12. They include choline, a vitamin that supports the neurological system, boosts mood, and aids in the production of neurotransmitters, in addition to the antioxidant selenium.

Fermented foods

Research studies testify to the importance of the gut-brain connection. Because the digestive tract produces almost 95% of serotonin, prioritising gut health will assist to boost our mood. Scientists are also looking at the links between gut bacteria and mood or cognition. Just a few meta-analyses showed that probiotics can aid in the treatment of depression. Fermented foods, such as idli, dosa, and dairy-free yoghurt, are high in probiotics.

Chia seeds

Chia seeds are indeed a plant-based source of the fatty acids omega-3, as well as a variety of other nutrients such as protein, fibre, calcium and iron. This mood-boosting food contains magnesium, nature's relaxing mineral.

Almonds

Protein (containing tyrosine for neurotransmitters), magnesium, fibre, and vitamin E are all found in this mood-enhancing food. Vitamin E has been demonstrated to enhance memory and cognition and act as an antioxidant to help prevent free radical damage to the brain. —Femina

DRIPPING IN CHOCOLATE

3 recipes to soothe any sweet tooth

CHOCOLATE CUP CAKE

Cooking Time: 30
Serves: 10 portions



These delectable cupcakes feature a moist and fluffy chocolate base, topped with a swirl of creamy frosting and a sprinkle of colorful decorations. Each bite is a burst of chocolaty goodness.

INGREDIENTS

- Refined flour - 1.3 KG
- Baking powder - 300 GM
- Cocoa powder - 300 GM
- Sugar - 1 KG
- Salt - 30GM
- Baking soda - 20 GM
- Butter - 100 GM
- Eggs - 04 NOS
- Milk - 150 ML
- Vanilla extract - 40 GM

METHOD

- Preheat the oven
- Mix dry ingredients - in a large mixing bowl whisk together
- Mix wet ingredient in a second bowl whisk together
- Combine the batter & pour wet ingredients over dry ingredients and whisk the batter till it becomes a little loose
- Fill and bake fill each cupcake bake 350°F for 18-22 minutes to cook
- Garnish with sprinkles, chocolate dust or chips



CHOCOLATE OPERA

Introducing the Chocolate Opera, the undisputed king of chocolate delights. With its rich layers of velvety chocolate mousse, delicate sponge cake, and luscious ganache, the Chocolate Opera is a true indulgence for the senses. (Size 1 portion)

INGREDIENTS

- Almond flour, spooned and leveled - 1 cup (100g)
- Granulated sugar, divided - 1/2 + 1/4 cup (100g + 50g)
- Salt - 1/4 tsp
- Vanilla extract - 1 tsp
- Large eggs, room temperature - No3
- All-purpose flour, spooned and leveled - 1/2 cup (60g)
- Melted butter - 2 Tbsp (28g)
- Coffee - 3/4 cup (177mL)
- Granulated sugar - 1/4 cup (50g)
- Dark chocolate - 1 cup (6oz)
- Heavy whipping cream - 1/2 cup (118mL)
- Dark chocolate - 1/2 cup (3oz)
- Coconut oil - 1 Tbsp (15mL)

METHOD

- Preheat oven to 350°F (175°C) and line a baking sheet with parchment paper
- Mix almond flour, 1/2 cup granulated sugar, salt, and vanilla extract in a bowl.
- Beat eggs, gradually adding remaining 1/4 cup sugar, until light and fluffy.
- Fold egg mixture into almond flour mixture.
- Add all-purpose flour and melted butter, mix until combined.
- Spread batter onto the baking sheet and bake for 12-15 minutes. Let it cool.
- Prepare coffee French buttercream by heating coffee and sugar in a saucepan, then cool.
- Beat softened butter and gradually add cooled coffee mixture.
- Cut cooled cake into three equal rectangles to create six layers.
- Layer cake with coffee buttercream between each layer.
- Heat whipping cream, add dark chocolate, and stir until smooth. Pour ganache over the cake.
- Combine remaining dark chocolate and coconut oil, microwave until melted. Drizzle over the cake.
- Refrigerate for 2-3 hours to set.



Prep Time: 1 hours
Cooking Time: 15
Additional Time: 3 hours
Total Time: 4 hours 15 mints

Cooking Time: 30
Serves: 10 portions



CHOCOLATE BROWNIE

Indulge in the irresistible delight of a Chocolate Brownie - a perfect balance of moist, fudgy goodness and intense chocolate flavor. With its rich, velvety texture and generous chunks of decadent chocolate, this timeless classic is a true indulgence for chocolate lovers.

INGREDIENTS

- Butter - 700 GMS
- Refined flour - 700GMS
- Egg - 5 nos.
- Chocolate - 500 GMS
- Baking powder - 15 GMS
- Cocoa powder - 250 GMS
- Caster sugar - 300GMS
- Vanilla essence - 2 Tbs
- Salt - a pinch

METHOD

- Melt butter and chocolate in a bowl.
- In a separate bowl mix egg, sugar and vanilla essence.
- Add refined flour, cocoa powder and salt to the melted chocolate mixture. Stir the mixture till smooth batter form.
- Grease the baking tray and fill it with the above mixture with half inch thickness.
- Preheat the oven 180C(350F) and cook for 30 minutes.
- Cool after baking, serve at room temperature with chocolate sauce.

AC chair car, executive class fares to be cut

Train ticket price to be slashed by 25%; will benefit Vande Bharat users

#NEW DELHI

Fares of AC chair cars and executive classes of all trains, including Vande Bharat, which have less than 50 per cent occupancy, will be reduced by up to 25 per cent, a Railway Board order has stated.

The discount shall be implemented with immediate effect.

The trains will also include those with Anubhuti and Vistadome coaches.

The fares will depend on those of competitive modes of transport.

With a view to optimising utilisation of accommodation, the rail ministry has decided to delegate powers to principal chief commercial managers of railway zones to introduce discounted fare schemes in trains with AC seating, the order said.

"This scheme shall be applicable in AC chair car and executive classes of all trains having AC seating accommodation, including Anubhuti and Vistadome coaches," it stated.

"The element of discount shall be up to a maximum 25 per cent on the basic fare. Other charges like reservation charge, super fast surcharge, GST, etc, as applicable, shall be levied separately. The discount may be provided in any or all the classes on the basis of occupancy," it said.

The order further said that trains having "classes with occupancy less than 50 per cent (either end-to-end or in some specified legs/sections depending upon the sections where discount is to be provided) during the last 30 days shall be taken into consideration".

Senior officials said the scheme will be



File photo of the Vande Bharat Express arriving at Patna Junction

applicable to Vande Bharat trains as well. Currently, barring a handful of such low occupancy trains, most of the services of this semi-high speed train are running with full occupancy, according to official data.

End of June data sourced by PTI showed that the Bhopal-Indore Vande Bharat service recorded just 29 per cent occupancy whereas the return journey of Indore-Bhopal Vande Bharat Express had only 21 per cent occupancy.

Similarly, the Nagpur-Bilaspur Vande Bharat Express which has an average occupancy of around 55 per cent and the Bhopal-Jabalpur Vande Bharat Express

which has clocked 32 per cent occupancy while the return journey on Jabalpur-Bhopal Vande Bharat service has shown 36 per cent occupancy is also likely to see a fare reduction.

The discount can be given for the first and/or last leg of the journey and/or intermediate sections and/or end-to-end journey provided the occupancy is less than 50 per cent in that leg/section/end-to-end.

"The discount shall be implemented with immediate effect. However, no refund of fare shall be admissible for already booked passengers," the order said.

-PTI

Bengal Panchayat election: 13 killed in poll violence

#KOLKATA

The panchayat elections in West Bengal recorded voter turnout of 50.33 per cent till 3 p.m. on Thursday, with as many as 13 persons losing their lives in poll-related violence across the state.

The highest number of deaths has been reported from Murshidabad district at four, followed by two deaths each in Malda, Cooch Behar and East Burdwan districts, while Nadia, South 24 Parganas and North Dinajpur districts reported one casualty each. With this, a total of 32 persons have lost their lives in poll-related violence since the announcement of polling date on June 8.

However, according to the State Election Commissioner Rajiva Sinha, the death toll on polling day till 3 p.m. was three. "The security forces are taking action wherever there are complaints of malpractices. The decision of re-polling, if any, will be taken only after the review of the situation at the end of the polls," Sinha told reporters.

Reports of heckling and beating up of polling staff also came from different parts of the state. The joint forum of state government employees has blamed the "utter mismanagement" on part of the State Election Commission for the plight of the polling officials.

"Since the beginning we



Police personnel baton charge after a clash between rival groups

have been claiming that the safety of the polling staff cannot be ensured without proper deployment of central armed forces. But on the polling day, the on-ground presence of the central forces was hardly visible.

"The Commission has failed miserably in ensuring the safety of the polling staff as per the order of the Calcutta High Court. So we have decided to file a contempt petition against the State Election Commissioner and other officials of the poll panel at the Calcutta High Court," said joint forum convener Bhaskar Ghosh.

Meanwhile, Union minister Anurag Thakur has posted a tweet asking why Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is not satisfied without violence, bloodbath and violence in any election. "What is her compulsion? The slaughter of democracy starts since the polling dates are announced," Thakur tweeted.

-IANS

'I miscalculated, seek your forgiveness'

#NASHIK

A week after the Nationalist Congress Party dramatic vertical split, the founder-President Sharad Pawar admitted that he 'slipped' and failed to gauge the crisis brewing up in the party, here on Saturday.

"I miscalculated... I did not realise the developments taking place in the party. I am not pointing fingers at anybody (for the split) and I accept the full responsibility for it," said Pawar, in an emotional tug at the masses while addressing a rally in Yeola town. He declared he had not come to Nashik to criticise anybody, but instead seek the forgiveness of the people of the district - who had always supported him - for the manner in which the NCP had split behind his back and he remained in the dark.

A week after the NCP broke up with Ajit Pawar and others joining the Shiv Sena-BJP government, Sharad Pawar kicked off his state-wide political tour from Yeola - the bastion of his former aide Chhagan Bhujbal, who also deserted the party. At the rally, Sharad Pawar said, "Those who comment on my age should beware... they will have to pay heavily for it," warned Pawar.

-IANS

Amarnath yatra: Thousands of pilgrims stranded

#JAMMU/SRINAGAR

The Amarnath Yatra was suspended for the second consecutive day on Saturday following incessant rains and landslides, leaving thousands of pilgrims stranded in Jammu and at various places en route to the cave shrine.

Union minister Jitendra Singh assured the pilgrims that senior officials are monitoring the situation and requested them not to panic and to follow instructions issued by authorities from time to time.

Heavy rains have lashed large parts of Jammu and Kashmir since Thursday night while several high-altitude areas, including Mahaguns Top and adjoining areas near the Amarnath cave shrine, experienced snowfall. Some places witnessed record rainfall over a 24-hour period for July. "The Yatra remains suspended from both the Pahalgam and the Baltal routes for the second day due to the inclement weather," an official said.

"No fresh batch of yatis were allowed (to leave) from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp this morning in view of the suspension of the Yatra in the Valley and the inclement weather," a police official told PTI.



BRO teams after a landslide hit the Pishotop route of the Amarnath Yatra track following heavy rains

80 from K'taka stranded

#BENGALURU

At least 80 persons from Karnataka are stranded en route to the pilgrimage to Amarnath cave due to bad weather, authorities said on Saturday. Among the 80, as many as 23 are said to be from Gadag district. These pilgrims are stranded at Panchtarni, six km away from the shrine. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah directed the authorities to provide all necessary assistance for the safe return of the pilgrims from the state.

-PTI

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Too many hurdles for pedestrians at Victoria Layout

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The residents and pedestrians have demanded that BBMP ensure the footpath is free from dry waste. "The BBMP authorities, especially solid waste management department officials, have to take measures to prevent dumping of dry waste on the footpath. It is preventing pedestrians from walking on the footpath," said Joseph M, a resident of the area.

Expressing a similar opinion, Aravind Shetty, a resident of Agaram Road, said the footpaths on Victoria Road are not pedestrian-friendly. "The footpaths on both sides of the Victoria Road are in a poor condition. The BBMP has not done anything to improve the condition of the footpaths. It has become difficult for pedestrians to walk here," said Shetty.

Coming down heavily on the BBMP and the traffic police for not removing vehicles parked along the footpaths on Palmgrove Road, Bopanna MS, a resident of Victoria Layout, said vehicles parked along the footpaths also are hur-

dles to pedestrians. "Some vehicles have been parked on the road for a long time now. Neither the owners of those vehicles nor the traffic police are bothered to remove them," said Bopanna.

He complained against the encroachment of the footpath on Victoria Road by a private property owner. "The property owner has constructed a compound wall on the footpath. There is a school opposite this spot where hundreds of students study. The school children are forced to walk on this busy road thus making them vulnerable to road accidents," he said.

The electric and traffic signal poles installed on the footpath of Victoria Road near Lifestyle Store too have become hurdles for pedestrians. "With most of the space occupied by a number of poles installed for one or the other reason, there is no space left on the stretch of the footpath for pedestrians," said Gangadhar S, a pedestrian.

Meanwhile, BBMP assistant executive engineer said the development of footpaths on Palmgrove Road would be taken up shortly.



Same scene, different street

The situation of footpaths is similar in several areas in the city; here we bring you glimpses from Neelasandra

PICS: KAUSHIK JN



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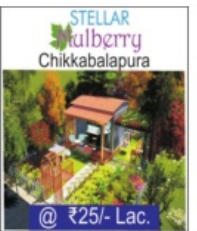
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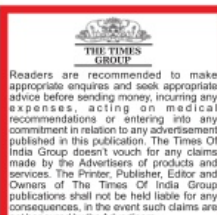
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I, Renukamma, R/o No.143/10, 3rd Floor, 2nd Main Road, Metro Layout, Nayandanahalli, Bangalore 560083 have changed my name to V Pushpa Vijaykumar forever vide affidavit dated 28.06.2023 sworn before Notary H.R.Karunakara, Bangalore.

I, Abid Mansurali Kapasi R/o 203, Innovative Apartment, 1st Cross 5th Main Anugraha Layout, Bilekahalli, Bengaluru Pin 560076 have changed my minor daughter's name from Jamila to Jamila Abid Kapasi

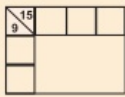
I, Ravi Kumar Dalappa S/o Dalgowda R/o #34, Yedamadu Kagalhalli, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Rama - nagar-562112 have changed my name to Ravi Kumar Dalgowda for all purposes.

I, Asma R/o 20-3, 4th Cross West, Padarayanapura Btluru- 560026 have changed my minor son's name from Mohammed Ziad to Mohammed Zaid vide Affidavit Dt: 06/07/2023 before notary Harisha G Btluru.

I, Ruth Hemalatha Wesley, R/o 201, Sudershan Wesley, R/o R201, Coral Plaza, Kemp Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru - 560005 have changed my name to Hema Wesley.

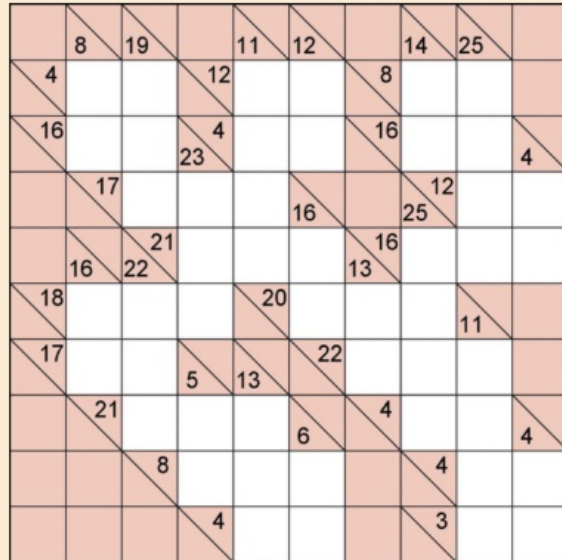
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

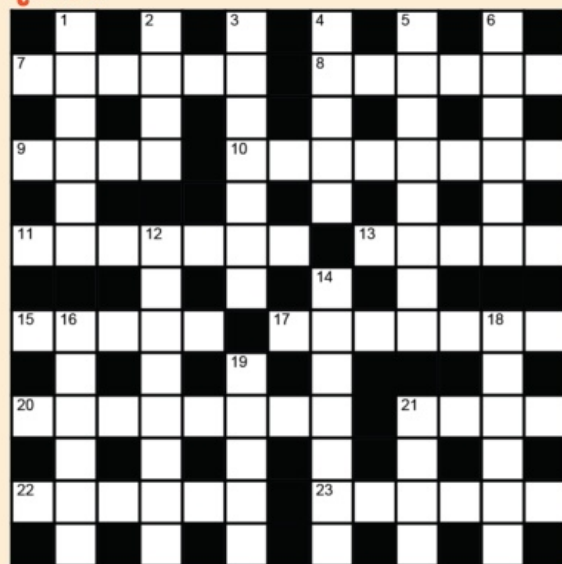


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 7 Crescent shaped? (6)
- 8 Degrades or humiliates (6)
- 9 Noah used one of these (4)
- 10 Surpassing; getting the better of (8)
- 11 Acknowledged or expressed gratitude (7)
- 13 Personal journal (5)
- 15 Convulsive movement (5)
- 17 Natural skills (7)
- 20 Land or alight (4,4)
- 21 Dull, heavy blow (4)
- 22 Asked for alms (6)
- 23 Bypass; deviation (6)

DOWN

- 1 Exclamation of joy (6)
- 2 Battles or armed conflicts (4)
- 3 Deciphers or interprets (7)
- 4 Horse's walk (5)
- 5 Petrol for the Americans (8)
- 6 More ignoble or lowly (6)
- 12 Bird's savings—should we say? (4,4)
- 14 Official language of Karnataka (7)
- 16 Field worker (6)
- 18 It may be malignant or benign? (6)
- 19 Verbose (5)
- 21 Wagers or stakes (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: **W EQUALS H**
XWQ GBFMY GBME XB M JML'Z
WQMGX OZ XB XMYU XB WOJ
MKBRX XWQ XWOLCZ WQ
XGQMZRQZ JBZX.



Linemaro

Each day I love you more, today more than yesterday and less than tomorrow



Mindchow

He has the right to criticise who has the heart to help



Joke of the day

Murphy's law of martial arts: After a flawless demonstration, you will trip on your way back to your seat

Loop

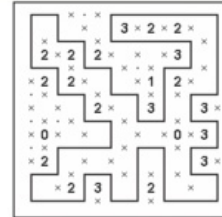
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

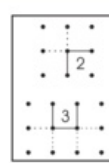
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

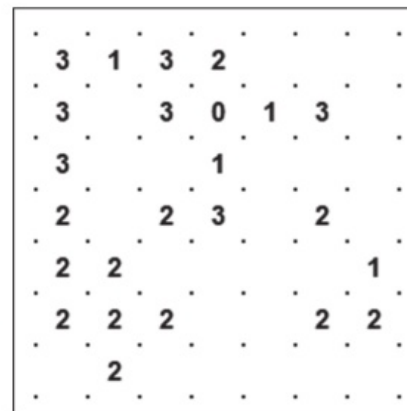
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



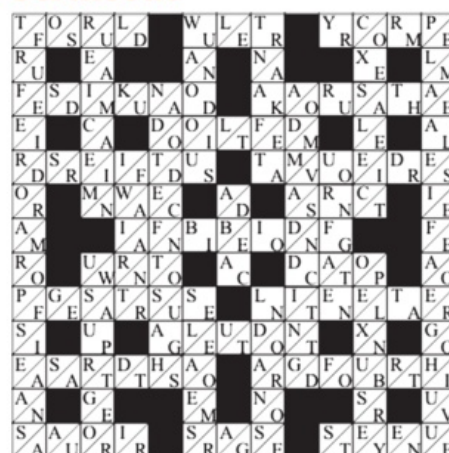
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

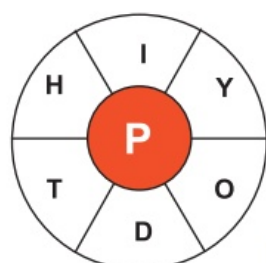
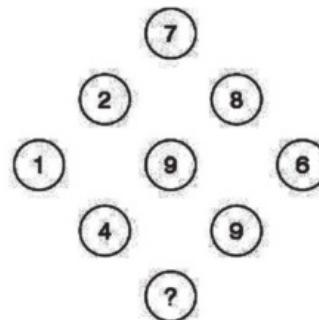
- 1 Acorn; 6 La Lau;
- 7 LAN us; 8 To Cur;
- 9 Sophy

DOWN

- 1 Nucha; 2 Loyal;
- 3 Up urn (3-2); 4 Coral;
- 5 A toss

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

$2 \times 2 \times 3 \times 3 = 3$

Medium

$2 \times 6 \times 6 \times 9 = 72$

Hard

$3 \times 5 \times 7 \times 4 = 30$

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Differences: 1. House is wider. 2. Fence is not as long. 3. Bush is smaller. 4. Crack in window is smaller. 5. Bricks are lower. 6. Cap is larger.

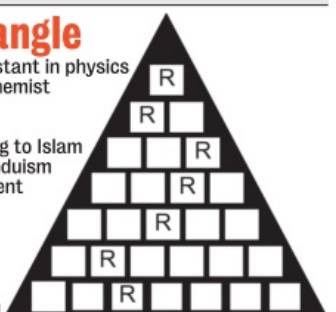
Riddler

What connects Bahia, Minas Gerais and Alagoas?

Alpha triangle

- 1 Universal gas constant in physics
- 2 Radium, for the chemist
- 3 Spoil
- 4 Wrongdoing
- 5 Unlawful according to Islam
- 6 The Creator in Hinduism
- 7 Former US President Lincoln

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

The BETTER HALF

by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET STANLEY PARKER



"The guy who invented frozen yogurt got rich! Want to try some frozen mayonnaise, frozen cottage cheese, or frozen mustard?"



"This bathroom scale has a fast-forward button to help you get to the end of your diet sooner."



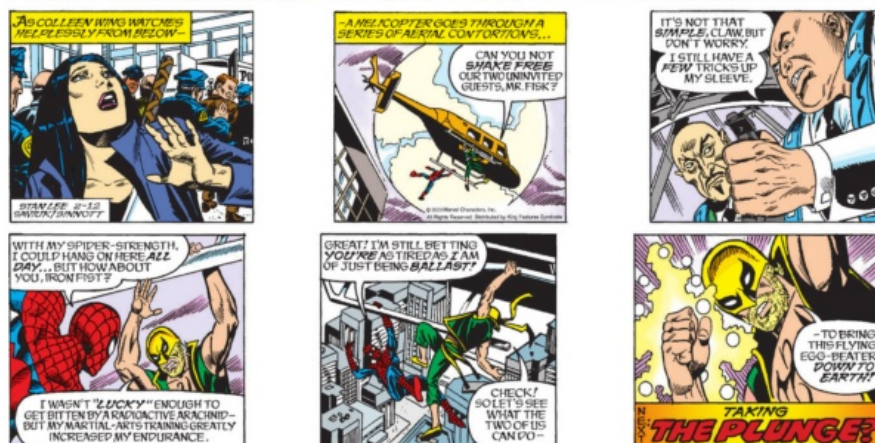
"Our diet pizza is the same as our regular pizza, except we put dead flies on some of the slices."



"I liked our old spell checker better."



"And this knob lets you adjust the level of violence on any program."



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today, with the help of your strong network, you may implement your business plans. You may use your wisdom to gain profits. You may also have harmony in your domestic life; there may be good understanding between you and your spouse.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today, you have control over your opponents and hidden enemies. Decisions in legal matters may come in your favor. Your boss may be happy because of your hard work and dedication; you may get new responsibilities in terms of promotion. Singles may find their soul mate.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today, you may be able to control your expenditure on worthless things, which may increase your savings. You may be more creative today; you may use your creativity in your office or at home, which may enhance your social status. Lovebirds may likely get some support from their family members and friends for marriage.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today, you are more spiritual. You may plan to visit some religious place to find peace of mind. You may donate some amount to charity or a spiritual place. People around you may get help and support from you, in terms of finance or moral support. You may enjoy every moment with satisfaction and patience.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today, you may be happy. You may plan to buy some creative stuff that may improve your lifestyle. You may also spend on your friends and family members. You may plan to make investments in assets. Singles may find a good match, and lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today, messy situations are now under control. You may feel peace in your mind. You may be able to make a proper balance in expenditure and earnings, which may increase your savings. You are advised to avoid too much traveling or overworking as it may affect your health. Students can start planning for their higher studies, and lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Today, you may have a dull feeling. You are advised to control your short temper nature. Your focus is tested many times; you should try to avoid scattering towards your goals. So, it is advised not to invest in worthless stuff. Lovebirds are advised to avoid making arguments on worthless topics. It is advised to avoid overnight traveling and come back home on time.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today, you may be seeking peace of mind, but moon's blessings may help you to focus yourself. Investments in property and other assets are advised to avoid. You may have some happy moments in your domestic life, but it is advised to avoid arrogance and ego with your spouse. Disputes with the business partner are likely to be resolved.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today, you may face health issues that may make you impatient. You are advised to control your short-tempered nature. You may spend your hard-earned money buying worthless stuff; it may affect your savings. Lovebirds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics; otherwise, there might be a breakup.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today, you are blessed by the moon. You may make new plans in terms of business, and your colleagues may be with you to implement your plans. You may recover your stuck money from your clients, which may boost liquidity in the business. After late evening, you may have some anxiety that may affect your sound sleep.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today, you are blessed by the moon, and your destiny is likely to be with you. Today, you may be more energetic and focused on your work. Your hard work may pay you in terms of success. Your subordinates may help you, and you are likely to go for short work-related travel. Some good news may come from your sibling, and you may plan to renovate your house or office where your creativity will be tested.



Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today is a good day. In business, you may get new clients, which will be helpful in the growth of profits. Singles are likely to find their good match. In domestic life, you must avoid hiding anything from your spouse; otherwise, it will create some gap in your relationship. Job seekers may likely get a new job, and there are chances of promotions in the current job.



KIDZONE



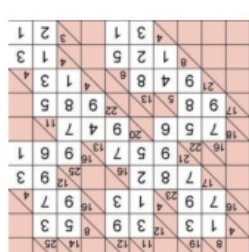
Dhruva R, 7 years, Little Angles English School



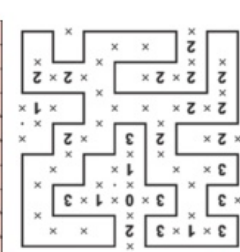
Dhanush Pallavi, 12 years, Iccha Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru- 560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

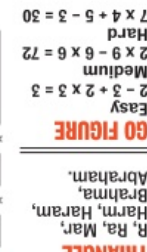
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



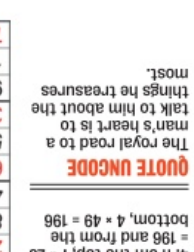
LOOP



ALPHA TRIANGLE



SUDOKU



MENSUA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULL'S EYE



Fan crush

When Katrina Kaif made a stylish appearance at the Mumbai airport on Saturday, chaos erupted at the airport premises as the actress got mobbed by a swarm of fans



NOT QUITE THE PLAN

Priyanka Chopra's mother reveals being in films was never on daughter's list

After winning the prestigious Miss World crown, Priyanka Chopra has worked her way to earn a reputation as an international icon. Turns out, being an actress was never her plan.

Priyanka's mother Madhu Chopra recently shared that her daughter had taken a gap year to participate in the Miss World pageant but post that, getting into films was not on her list. Priyanka wanted to study.

Speaking to The Habit Coach, Madhu shared, "When we came back to Mumbai, film offers started coming in. She was against it and said that she doesn't wish to do all this and just study. So we said such opportunities don't come by every day. 'You have taken a gap here, give it a shot for two months, do one film, if you don't like it, if it's not for you, you can always go back and study.' So that's what she did." She went on to reveal that Priyanka's first contract had big blotches of teardrops and she told her mother, 'I am only doing it because you are telling me to do it'. Madhu Chopra concluded that when Priyanka faced the camera, she loved it and went on to pursue it as a passion. —ETimes

What's Sunny up to next?

Sunny Leone has received a lot of praise for her outstanding performance in the critically acclaimed film 'Kennedy.'

On Saturday, Sunny took to Instagram to share a photo of herself reading a massive script, which sparked curiosity among netizens.

She captioned the post, "That's one huge script. Going to be great!!!!"

She can be seen reading the script in the picture in casual black and white outfits.

Sunny's post tickled fans and colleagues' curiosity in no time.

A fan wrote, "EXCITEDDD!"

Another fan commented, "Beauty forever."

While critics praised Sunny Leone's performance as Charlie in 'Kennedy,' fans in India are eagerly awaiting the film's theatrical release.

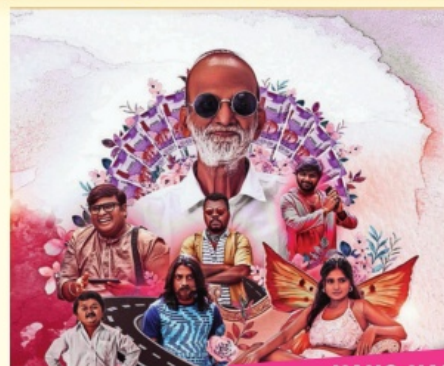
The film received a standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival 2023 and premiered during the midnight screening at the Cannes 2023.

The film revolves around an insomniac ex-cop, long thought to be dead, but still operating for the corrupt system, and looking for redemption. 'Kennedy' is amongst the only two films from India this year to be the official selections at the festival.

Meanwhile, Sunny has multiple projects in the pipeline, and the audience can't wait to see what she has in store for them. —ANI



The good, bad and the really ugly



Nano Narayanappa is the last movie in which Krishnaji Rao, who appeared in the movie KGF and its sequel, plays the lead.

The movie begins with a voiceover informing a prospective client about an antique binocular that enables him to quench his voyeurism. The scene shifts to a middle-class locality in Bengaluru where Narayanappa aka Nano Narayanappa (Krishnaji Rao), a junior artiste of Sandalwood, takes care of his ailing wife Ningavva. He narrates his problem to his friend Rajesh (Ananthu Padmanabha), a junior artiste.

Meanwhile, Ningavva is diagnosed with a rare disease and needs surgery to stay alive. The doctor asks Narayanappa to arrange Rs 20 lakh for the surgery. He along with Rajesh approaches financiers for a loan but in vain. With no other option,

Narayanappa announces that he possesses an antique binocular specialised in quenching the thirst of voyeurs. He wants to sell it for Rs 20 lakh through Rajesh who wants to pocket Rs 30 lakh by hiking the price of the binocular to Rs 50 lakh. Rajesh meets Charlie (Prashanth Siddi), an auto rickshaw driver, who wants to pocket Rs 50 lakh by increasing the price of the binocular to Rs 1 crore. Finally, Charlie approaches a guitarist who wants to sell it for Rs 2 crore to an astrologer. What

happens to Narayanappa and his wife is what the movie is all about.

As far as the performance of actors is concerned, Krishnaji Rao, as a concerned husband and a junior artiste, has acted well. His dialogues are meaningful. Ananthu Padmanabha, Prashanth Siddi, Cockroach Sudhir have provided good support.

Apoorva, as a money lender, has acted well, especially in a scene where she chides a quarrelling couple (Pavithra and Vijeth). Shailesh, who is used to playing a cop character in movies, has played a greedy and lecherous MLA who stoops to any level not only to amass assets but also to quench sexual desires. Dr King Mohan, as an opportunistic astrologer, is convincing.

Music by Akash Parva is good. It is worth a watch as it covers the range of human emotions such as greed and lust to true love. —Y Maheswara Reddy

NANO NARAYANAPPA

3.0 RATING ★★★★★

- **DIRECTOR** Kumaar L
- **ACTORS** Krishnaji Rao aka KGF Thatha, Ananthu Padmanabha, Prashanth Siddi, Apoorva
- **CERTIFICATION** U
- **Duration** 98 minutes

Edge-of-the-seat thriller

The film begins with an interrogation scene -- police are quizzing a senior citizen about an alleged psycho killer responsible for a series of murders in the city. Assistant Commissioner of Police (Harry Josh) asks Nagesh (Nagesh Mayya), a police inspector, to investigate the murder of an unidentified girl. During the interrogation, the senior citizen tells the police that Mrudula (Komica Achal), a model who cannot speak, was exploited by some parasites.

At this juncture, the director introduces a watchman (Shyam) and how he harassed Mrudula and how she kills him and disposes of his body parts in plastic bags. As if it is not enough, she comes to know how Santosh (Santosh Medappa) and Karan (Vikas), the son of Superintendent of Police, are responsible for the death of her friend Komala. She eliminates Santosh and also her boss who misbehaves with her.



HATHYA

2.5 RATING ★★★★★

- **DIRECTOR** Varun Gangadhar
- **ACTORS** Harry Josh, Komica Achal, Vikas Gowda, Shyam, Harry Josh, Nagesh Maiya
- **CERTIFICATION** A
- **Duration** 123 minutes

What happens to Mrudula and Karan and the police investigation is what Hathya is all about.

Director Varun Gangadhar kept the screenplay crisp, managing to keep the audience on the edge of their seats during the post-intermission period. The narration of the movie

gains momentum as it progresses.

Komica, as a hapless mute girl vulnerable to exploitation, has acted well. She walks away with all honours for her performance, especially in the climax. Shyam, as a lecherous watchman, has acted well. If he focuses on acting, he can get more roles with negative shades. Vikas Gowda, as a wayward boy, has done a good job. Nagesh Maiya, a well-known character artiste, gets the rare opportunity of being on the screen from beginning to end. The director claims that the movie is based on a true story.

It is worth a watch for crime thriller aficionados. —Y Maheswara Reddy